



# Kentucky Postsecondary Education A Reform Snapshot

## How Are We Doing?

### 1. Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education?

**ACT scores are increasing.** ACT scores of Kentucky students rose from 20.0 in 2002 to 20.2 in 2003. The national score of 20.8 did not change.

**More students are taking the ACT.** Seventy-three percent of Kentucky students take the ACT, ranking eighth nationally.

**More students are taking the ACT core curriculum.** The number of students who took the core curriculum increased from 43 percent in 1998 to 59 percent in 2003. ACT data show that students taking the ACT core curriculum do better on the ACT.

**Adult education enrollments are increasing.** Enrollments are up from 51,177 in 2000 to 109,880 (preliminary figures) in 2003, a 115 percent increase.

**More adults have a high school diploma or GED.** The percentage of adults age 25 or older with a high school diploma or GED increased from 64.6 percent in 1990 to 74.1 percent in 2000, the highest percentage increase in the nation.

**More adults are earning a GED.** The number of Kentuckians earning a GED increased from 13,211 in 2000 to 20,689 in 2001. This 57 percent increase was the sixth largest in the U.S.

### 2. Are more students enrolling?

**Enrollments increased 22.8 percent between 1998 and 2003 to a total of 226,910 (preliminary figures), a record high.**

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System showed the largest increase since 1998 with 25,532 more students - an increase of 56 percent.

Enrollment in the Kentucky Virtual University increased from 228 students and nine programs in fall 1999 to over 16,000 students and 35 programs in fall 2003.

**More Kentucky ninth graders are enrolling in college within four years.** In 1996, 36 percent of ninth graders enrolled in college within four years. By 2000, the rate rose to 38 percent, exceeding the national average.

**More GED completers are enrolling in college.** The percentage of GED completers in Kentucky enrolling in postsecondary education within two years rose from 13 percent in 2000 to 17.8 percent in 2002.

### 3. Are more students advancing through the system?

**Graduation rates are increasing.** The graduation rate for public universities in Kentucky rose from 36.7 percent in 1998 to 43.5 percent in 2002.

**More degrees have been awarded.** In 2001-02, Kentucky's public and independent universities awarded 24,909 degrees, a 7.7 percent increase over 1997-98.

**Credentials awarded by KCTCS have increased significantly.** KCTCS awarded 9,022 certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees in 2001-02, a 33.3 percent increase over the previous year.

#### 4. **Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work?**

**Alumni surveys show satisfaction with instruction and preparation.** A 2001 alumni survey showed 82 percent of alumni were satisfied with the instruction they received and 71 percent were satisfied that college prepared them for work.

**KCTCS has approved more than 800 new programs that culminate in certificates, diplomas, or associate degrees.** All of the new programs are increasing the skill levels of Kentucky workers.

**Over 1,200 citizens have been awarded Kentucky Employability Certificates.** This program is a partnership between KCTCS and the Cabinet for Workforce Development to enable employees to demonstrate their workplace credentials.

#### 5. **Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting?**

**By the end of the third biennium (June 30, 2004), assuming all state funds are matched by then, the Bucks for Brains program will have added \$700 million to the institutions' endowments.** Kentucky's universities have added to the intellectual capital of the state by increasing the number of endowed chairs from 55 to 166 and the number of endowed professorships from 53 to 229.

**Research and development expenditures are increasing.** Total per capita research and development spending increased 51 percent between 1996 and 2000, exceeding the national increase of 23 percent. Extramural research and development expenditures at UK and UofL rose from \$105 million in 1997 to \$185 million in 2001.

**From 1990 to 2000, Kentucky's per capita income increased from 77.3 percent to 83.8 percent of the U.S. average** – the fifth highest rate of increase in the U.S.

### **Are We Effective Stewards?**

#### **Examples of effective stewardship by postsecondary institutions include:**

Eliminating and restructuring administrative offices to provide additional funding for academic priorities.

Eliminating and restructuring academic programs to increase productivity and effectiveness.

Outsourcing administrative and support programs.

Taking advantage of economies of scale by developing and utilizing cooperative purchasing agreements and common contracts.

Developing and utilizing energy saving performance contracts.

Developing and utilizing programs (e.g., 2+2 and completer degrees) to facilitate student transfer and enable students to achieve their educational goals as quickly as possible.

Collaborating in the delivery of academic programs such as engineering and public health to meet critical state needs at the lowest possible cost.

Generating additional revenue through external sources such as private donations and federal grants and contracts.

